

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT    Procedures for Interior Travel (Bus and Rail)/Necessary  
             Checks and Documents/Border Zone Regulations

PLACE ACQUIRED

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2. "Take the case of a resident of Letaj (in the border zone area) who wants to go to Tirana. When he leaves his village he must report to the Kryetar (president) of the Keshilli Katundit (Village Council) and inform him that he is going to Tirana. No other documentation is necessary, not even a stamp on his Identification Card. This holds true for a normal resident of any village who wants to go to Tirana.
3. "The Letaj villager must go by horseback or walk to the next town -- there is no other means of communication. There are no controls, not even any 'block posts' [sic] for a person entering the town of Kukes.
4. "There at Kukes, the regional town, the villager from Letaj must go to the Agjensia E Pasagjeravet (State Bus Travel Agency) to get his bus ticket. The travellers line up. A person in S.SH. (Security Police) uniform collects the Identification Card (Leter-Njoftimit) of each traveller and hands them to the employee in the ticket cage.

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[illegible]

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- When the traveller reaches the ticket window, his personal data is copied off his Leter-Njoftimit. It is needed to prepare his bus ticket and also to prepare the Manifesta - the list of the names of all the bus passengers. The person pays for his bus ticket when it is issued. His Leter-Njoftimit is returned. This completely ends the documentation procedure here. This procedure for purchasing a bus ticket holds true not only in a border zone area but anywhere in Albania. No special permit is necessary for the resident of a border zone area who wants to travel elsewhere in Albania. However, the Manifesta is prepared in triplicate, and the original bears the stamp of the S.SH. of the town of issue (in this case Kukes). One copy also remains in the S.SH. files. Therefore, there is indirect control and evidence of a person travelling outside his area of residence.

5. "A sample bus ticket would appear thus (on white paper):

## BILETE - UDETIMI

EMNI MBIEMNI .....

UDHTON PREJ.....

ORA.....

DT.....195..

AGENZIA PASAGJERAVET  
 NEPUNSI ( )

Vula

\*\*\*\*

[translation]

## TRIP TICKET

NAME AND SURNAME.....

IS UNDERTAKING JOURNEY FROM..... TO.....

Hour.....

Date.....

Passenger Agency  
 Employee (signature)

Stamp of S.SH.

\*\*\*\*

6. "The Manifesta is typewritten in triplicate. The names of the passengers are not necessarily in alphabetical order. The original on white paper is retained by the driver, after being stamped in the left-hand corner with the S.SH. stamp only -- no signature. A blue carbon remains in the S.SH. files. A green carbon remains with the State Bus Travel Agency; this copy is not stamped by the S.SH. Sample Manifesta:

-----

V.F.

L.P.

MANIFESTA

Nr.Re. EMNI MBIEMNI DT LINDJA VEND.LINDJA EMNI BABES EMNI NANES VREJTIE

1.

2.

3. etc.

[full page]

AGJENSIA PASAGJEROVE  
 NEPUNSI ( )

VULA

\*\* \*\*  
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[translation]

V.F. - Death to Facism

L.P. - Freedom to Peoples

List of Names

No.	Name & Surname	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Remarks
1.						
2.						
3.	etc.					

Passenger Agency  
Employee (signature)

Stamp

7. "Priorities exist in the issue of tickets:

(a) Military personnel have top priority.

(b) Next come State employees or workers, including Stakhanovitsy, who are being transferred from one region to another. In this case, the person transferred obtains two documents from the State Institution for which he works:

(1) - An Urdher-Transferimi - Order of Transfer, and

(2) - An Urdher Sherimi - Work Order. This document is shown only to the employee at the Travel Agency and establishes priority.

(1) The Urdher-Transferimi is typewritten on white paper, about 5" x 8", which bears the letterhead of the institution. Sample:

V.F.  
Republika Popullore Shqiptare  
Kom. Ekz. K.P. Qytetit  
(Sek. Kuadrit)

L.P.

Data.....

Nr.....Prot.

URDHER - TRANSFERIMI

I Qojtuni X.....prej dt.....  
transferhoni nga ky Komitet dhe shkoni pome kete funksion ne  
Komitetim Ekz. K. P. Korce. Duhet te paraqiteni mbrenda dt.....

Per Kom. Ekz. K. P. Qytetit

Kryetari

Sekretari

( ) Vula ( )

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[translation]

V.F.  
The People's Republic of Albania  
The Executive Committee of the  
People's Board of the City  
(Personnel Office)

L.P.

Date....

Nr.....Prot...

ORDER OF TRANSFER

Person X.....from this date.....is transferred  
from this Committee in his job to the authority of the  
Executive Committee of the People's Board of Korca. He  
must report there within the.....(date).

For the Exec. Comm. of the People's Board  
of the City

President  
(signature)

Secretary  
( ) Stamp

- (2) The Urdher - Sherbimi is typewritten on white paper, about 8" x 5".  
No office registers these orders; hence the 'Extra'. No copies  
are made for files. Sample (for a schoolteacher):

V.F.

L.P.

Republika Popullore e Shqiprise  
Ministria Arsimit  
(Sek. Kuadrit)

Data.....

Nr....EXTRA.....Prot.

URDHER - SHERBIMI

Arsimtari X.....Shkon me sherbim ne  
Kukes, -mbrenda dt.....duhet te paraqitet prej cdo  
automjeti ti rezervohet vendi.

MINISTRI

(  
Vula

\*\*\*\*\*

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[translation]

V.F.

L.P.

People's Republic of Albania  
Ministry of Education  
(Personnel Section)

Date....

Nr.....EXTRA.....Prot.

WORK ORDER

Teacher X.....is travelling for work reasons to Kukes, and not later than ... (date)... he must report to place of work; all buses must reserve him a seat.

Minister  
(signature )

Stamp

- (c) Next come 'heroes' families' -- Familie Deshmori - persons who had relatives who died fighting as partisans during World War II. These persons are in possession of a document called the Trioka e Invalidet.

No priority is granted to ordinary members of the CP or of Syndicate or other Communist organizations.

8. "To resume the case of the traveller from Letaj to Tirana. After the sale of tickets is completed, and the Manifesta finally stamped by the S.SH Section in Kukes, the passengers board the bus. Actually the bus service between Kukes and Tirana is handled, not by regular passenger buses, but by ZIS or old Renault trucks carrying 40 passengers each. There is no control when the passengers get into the bus. There are no 'block posts' as one leaves the town. There are no S.SH. agents on the bus. The only officials are the driver (shofer), who keeps the Manifesta, and the conductor (fatorino), who handles the tickets. The fatorino only checks the ticket when a passenger reaches his destination.
9. "There are no 'block posts' on the road between Kukes and Tirana, and this is true throughout Albania. There is only the Policia Rrugës (Road Police) of the S.SH. They patrol on CSR-JAWA motorcycles (usually in pairs). between Kukes and Tirana they may stop the bus and ask to see the driver's Manifesta. The S.SH. does not check whether the passengers in the bus are the same ones listed on the Manifesta. He just asks, 'Is there any one without a ticket?'. It appears a mere formality to insure that the trip is regular and that the Manifesta bears the proper S.SH. stamp. frequency of these S.SH. road checks. Sometimes once or twice during a trip, sometimes more.
10. "Upon arrival in Tirana there are no check points or block posts. This holds true for any town in Albania.

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Situation of Non-resident in Tirana -- Person Who has Travelled to Tirana from  
Any Other Part of Albania.

11. "If he has come to Tirana on a temporary visit with relatives or friends, he can stay where he likes -- provided his hosts can give him lodging or are willing to share living space with him. He need not register anywhere; he does not even have to report to the Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagjes (President of the City Sub-Sector) within which he is lodged; his name does not have to be put on the Lista Familiare (list of inhabitants of a flat, posted on inner side of main door). This stay must not, however, exceed a period of one month.
12. "If the visitor's stay exceeds one month, he must inform the Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagjes to which he is responsible, because the Kryetar must register his name on the Lista Familiare of the lodging and on the books of the Raione. The Kryetar must also inform, through the People's Board, the People's Board of the place from which the person has departed. There is no objection to an extended visit in Tirana, provided the visitor has a place to stay.
13. "If the person has been transferred to Tirana by the State enterprise for which he works, he must comply with one documentary procedure: visit the Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagjes in which he is staying. The State provides no State or collective housing. The man finds his own living space, and the Kryetar signs his name on the Lista Familiare. The man need not report to the S.SH. (Only if a person moves to a border zone area does he need to report to the S.SH., to get a required permit).
14. "If the visitor's stay exceeds one month, his Identification Card must be stamped by the S.SH. of the Raione in which he is living. It is stamped on a special page. There is no questioning. In conclusion, it can be said that a person can live anywhere without being noticed, provided he has an Identification Card, for a period not exceeding one month.

Case of Traveller to a Border Zone Area

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[redacted] Kukes is the first town, as one travels out from Tirana, in the border zone area in northern Albania.

16. "If the traveller is a private citizen, and not within the Government's field of labor, he can obtain a Leje - Qarkullimi (Border Zone Permit) quite easily. He goes to the Seksioni I Punet Te Mrendeshme Te Qytetit - Tirane (Section of Internal Affairs of the City of Tirana, i.e. the offices of the Sigurimi Shtetit - Security Police) at Rr. e Cibles. There he speaks to an officer of the S.SH., and tells him the reason for this travel (visit to friends or relatives). He obtains the Leje Qarkullimi immediately for the period desired, even six months. If the period of stay in a border zone area is temporary, it is not linked to any other documentation prior to departure. The Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagjes in which the traveller lives does not even need to be notified. The Leje - Qarkullimi is type-written in duplicate on headed white paper. One copy is handed to the applicant; one is kept in S.SH. files. The document is registered in the outgoing mail of the S.SH. Office. Sample Leje Qarkullimi:

V.F.  
Republika Popullore Shqiptare  
Ministria e Punet Mbrendshme  
Nr....Prot..

L.P.

Data....

LEJE - QARKULLIMI

I qojtuni X.....lejohet te  
qarkulloje ne zonen e kufinit X.....  
mbasi shkon me sherbim ose ne shpine e tij.

Shefi Sek. Sigurimit  
grada ( )  
Vula

\*\*\*\*\*

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[translation]

V.F.  
People's Republic of Albania  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Nr.....Prot.....

I..P..  
Date.....

Border Zone Permit

Person X..... is hereto authorized to travel in the border zone X..... (indicates locality and also village)... for working reasons or to visit his home (one of the two reasons is cancelled out).

Chief of Security Section  
Rank (signature)  
Stamp

17. "If the person plans to move for good from Tirana (or from any other locality in Albania) to a border zone area, without being in the Government's field of labor (and thus transferred permanently), he cannot do it. The one exception are farmers, and they may move permanently to a border zone area only if the Government assigns them a field or plot of land to work. Therefore, ordinary citizens may only make temporary visits to the border zone. If, however, a person, even if he is a farmer - and thus a reactionaire - wants to move from a border zone area to Tirana, or any other locality in Albania, he can do so, even if his stay is for working reasons or if he merely hopes to find employment. No formality is required beyond informing the proper Kshilli Lagjes where he has come permanently to reside and presenting his Identification Card to the S.SH. of the Raione for stamping, (that is, at the end of one month).
18. "To resume the case of the traveller who now possesses a Leje Qarkullimi -- he possesses the original; the duplicate is retained in the S.SH. files -- for travel or permanent residence in a border zone area. He observes the following procedure, which also holds true for a person who has received permission to move permanently from Tirana to another town not in the border area, and vice-versa:
  - (a) He requests from the Kryetar of his Kshilli Lagjes a Vertetim of Transfer of Residence. This document is prepared by the Kryetar, in handwriting, the same way as the Verification of Residence prepared for a man about to apply for a job. The document bears the signatures of the Kryetar and the Sekrevar of the K.L. and the stamp of the Executive Committee of the People's Board of the raione to which the K.L. belongs. No particular credentials are necessary since a Kryetar knows all the citizens in the K.L. for which he is responsible. The Kryetar issues the Vertetim and obtains from the applicant the keys of the room or apartment in which he has been living. He makes the necessary adjustments on the Lista Familiare.
  - (b) With the Vertetim obtained from the Kretar, the man goes to the Seksioni Civile of the raione in which he lives and hands over the Vertetim. He obtains immediately another Vertetim, similar to the first, but on headed paper.

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- (c) Bearing both Vertetims, he goes to the Head Office of the Seksioni Civile of the Kom. Ekz. K.P. Qytetit of the city (in Tirana on Blv. Shehsi Skanderberg) and leaves them there.
- (d) He then must have his Leter-Njoftimit (Identification Card) stamped at the S.SH. of the raione in which he has been living and from which he plans to depart.
19. "Now he can depart. The issue of tickets for bus travel at the Agjensia e Pasagjervet in Tirana (located at Rr. 28 Nandor, near the Pharmacy No. 2) follows the same procedure as that described for Kukes [paragraphs 4-7].
20. "There are no block posts or controls of any kind in Tirana or any other city. On roads through the country the only control is that effected by the Policia Rrugës of the S.SH.
21. "When the person arrives at his destination in the border zone area he observes the following procedure:
- (a) If he has come to a town ('locality'), he must report within 24 hours after arrival (since there are no inspection posts) to the S.SH. of the locality. There his Leje Qarkullimi is checked. The S. SH. stamps with an S.SH. stamp the fact of his arrival in the necessary page of his Identification Card. No other procedure is necessary, and there is no questioning. The S.SH. have no offices in small rural towns or villages - only in the 23 regional capitals. Thus there is a Seksioni I Punëve të Mbrodshme in Kukes. This does not mean that the S.SH. is not active in rural areas. They have their informers, who act through the People's Board, or directly.
  - (b) If he has come to a village, then he need only report within 24 hours to the Kryetar of that village. He must show his Leje Qarkullimi but not his Identification Card (Leter-Njoftimit). No other procedure is necessary.
  - (c) If the person was transferred with Order of Transfer (Urdher - Transferim) to a locality within the border zone area, he must first upon arrival report to the Shef Personelit of the Seksioni Kuadrit of the government enterprise concerned. Then, he reports to the S.SH. of the locality -- still within the 24 hours -- which inspects his Leje Qarkullimi and affixes the usual routine stamp on his Identification Card. If the transfer to the border zone area is definite [permanent?], the S.SH. withdraws the Border Zone Permit.
  - (d) After completing the proper procedure above, the person must then report, if in a locality - not a village, to the Kryetar of the Kshilli Lagjes in which he is now living. But, to find lodging, even in a border zone area -- or in any town or locality to which a person has been transferred by a State enterprise -- is that person's own affair. The State won't find it. The man must follow the usual routine of filing an application at the Housing Office of the locality in which he now lives, or on which his village depends. Housing and Labor Offices exist only in the capital towns of regions.

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Train Travel

22. "The issue of train tickets does not require the same documentation (with Identification Card and Manifesta) as the issue of bus tickets. The issue of a railroad ticket at a window is a simple matter. The ticket does not bear the name, surname etc. of the traveller. It is a simple cardboard ticket.
23. "There are no controls at the entrances or exits of railway stations. This holds true, to my knowledge, for all railway stations in Albania.
24. Actually in Albania there is only one railway line: Tirana - Durrës - Elbasan. There are no controls on the trains, neither by the S.SH. or by the train conductors. There appear to be no S.SH. agents on the trains. The train conductor merely checks the passengers' tickets -- that is all. If a person is found on a train without a ticket he must pay for a ticket and also for an additional gjoba (fine).
25. "Party members and Party candidates are not entitled to free or reduced-rate tickets on trains or buses. The only travel privilege a high Party member might get, e.g. a plant director, would be an Urdher Sherbimi entitling him to reserved seat priority. In Albania not even vice-ministers have a car at their disposal, only ministers.

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Taxis

25X1

27. "There are no taxis [redacted] in Tirana, nor indeed in Albania."

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